

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, December 18, 2008

~ Approved Minutes ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Ilean Rabens, Greg Thompson, and Delores Huffman
- Absent: Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the month of November were approved. - Wolff/Perrou

IV. Chair and Vice Chair Reports

Commission Executive Meeting Update –Commissioner Larry Gasco, Vice Chair reported the primary focus discussed at the Commission Executive meeting on December 4, 2008:

- The Executive meetings are open for the commissioners and the public is invited. They are posted.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT) issues--Law enforcement has been given the responsibility to respond to psychiatric emergencies when there are no beds and no one is available to assess a situation. Entities are meeting on a regular basis to address the situation and keep the dignity of the client until bed(s) are available. Another issue is the importance of treating people with dignity. Sixty percent less hospitalizations occur when assessments are made at the scene. When no assessments are available law enforcement has to transport the individual in a car.

MHC/SAAC Chair meeting update – Terry Lewis-Nwachie, Executive Director

- Commission Chair/SAAC Chair meets monthly
- Current issue is PEI and assuring that all service areas have the same amount of support other communities have.

- Identify common goals that both the Commission and SAACs can work together on.

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Lana Brody – 2009 Annual Awards Program

- Strongly anticipate the presence of Stacy Snider, Dreamworks CEO, to be guest speaker.
- The committee is working with DMH to help allocate funding.
- This years theme will be visual and performing arts. Event details-- Thursday, May 21, 2009, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

Commissioner Victoria Sofro – 2009 Connections for Life Conference

- Formed a wonderful committee
- Program structure will be similar to the past
- Reminder--to put date on your calendar and hope you can attend. Conference details—April 1, 2009, at the California Endowment Center, and Paul Barry from “The Village” in Long Beach will be the moderator.

Commissioner Delores Huffman – Ms. Huffman was absent however, submitted the following report–

MHSA Housing Trust Fund

The Department is in contract negotiations with awardees.

MHSA Housing Program

Nine projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process (see attachment), and one has been approved for funding. The status of each project is shown below:

Initiating the Service Planning Process

- Mini Twelve Step House
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Charles Cobb Apartments

Public Comment Period in Progress

- Progress Place I & II
- Villas at Gower
- SCHARP Apartments

Invited to Submit Full Application

- Daniel's Village

Application Submitted to the State

- Glenoaks Gardens
- The Courtyards in Long Beach

Funding Request Approved

- Young Burlington

The current financial crisis is having an impact on some of the projects that have applied for funding under the MHSA Housing Program. It has become increasingly difficult for projects to get credit for loans to cover other project-related costs. This may result in some delays; however, the Department will keep the Mental Health Commission apprised of any new information that we receive regarding this issue.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

The Department is currently recruiting more mental health consumers and family members to participate on the MHSA Housing Advisory Board.

Staff from the Housing Policy & Development Unit recently participated in the Housing California conference, entitled *Creating Community 2008*, which took place December 8-10 in downtown Los Angeles. Staff facilitated a 4-hour institute on training housing specialists and participated in a panel discussion on implementing the MHSA Housing Program in Los Angeles County. Dr. Southard was also a featured speaker during the opening session of this conference.

We have initiated preparation for the third annual Housing Institute scheduled for June 2009 at the California Endowment. For the first time, we will open this training up to statewide participation.

VI. Departmental Report –

Dr. Robin Kay, Acting Chief Deputy Director and Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director reported on the following:

MHSA Update – Stats for MHSA funded services

FSP Children – 1,741 slots

TAY – 1514 slots

Adults – 3827 slots

Adults – 3367 slots

Wellness – 6559 clients (effective 11/08)

Older Adult – 1649 (field services)

Budget – Discussions took place on the following budget issues

- Decrease in funding that was controllable within DMH. DMH able to mitigate by series of cost-savings measures.
- Additional decreases in mental health funding with no dollars attached — includes the following:
 - Vehicle License fees and sales tax realignment
 - Managed care)
 - Increase in funding for fee-for-service
 - Unavoidable cost-of-living costs by CEO, County Council, ISD, etc.

Impact on Los Angeles when the State budget passed

- Additional reduction in managed care allocation
- CEO recommended the board absorb increased costs of the state hospital beds for one full year instead of six months.
- Additional decrease in vehicle license fees and sales tax revenue

DMH is ready to mobilize the following plans to address the shortfall –

- Identify philosophical principles that drive the process
- Investigating a methodology strategy to use in apportioning the shared responsibility with contractors
- Formulate a planning group made of the brightest and best contract and DMH staff to brainstorm possible mitigations
- Have MHSA growth money available this fiscal year
- Curtail contracts and ended traditional programs
- DMH housekeeping—clean up item control, identify vacancies, etc.
- Redesign programs so there is an opportunity to jump start and fuel full transformation and integration faster. This will create a continuity of a different group of services so that clients do not suffer.

Commission Motion to support no cuts to MHSA funding

Authorize that whoever it is doing public relations and media to emphasize that MHSA funds for mental health services are used for the purpose of passing the legislation and not lose them to other programs and coordinate these efforts with our Legislative Analyst, Susan Rajlal.

(UNANIMOUS)

Emergency Medical Services Update – Dr. Tony Beliz, Deputy Director, EOB

Dr. Beliz discussed the following:

- Re-establish MAT (Medical Alert Team) to provide mental health response to crisis negotiations
- Identify 13 individuals that have the skills and skill set to negotiate.
- Attend Sheriff recommended dedicated training in San Jose in February 2009.
- Meet with Lt. Ramirez, LASD, to discuss overview of the expectations.

PMRT Response Update – Dr. Rod Shaner, DMH Medical Director

Ensure PMRT can be increased to the level of 24/7 basis initiating the following:

- Establish a default destination at a LPS designated facilities
- Classify programs as Code 24. When space is critical medical centers can identify those services needed by the code.
- Model program like pilot at Olive View Medical Center
- Expand diversion program to identify beds in other hospitals including the private sector.

- CEO supports and recognizes that it's a countywide issue for both DMH and DHS.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst –

Ms. Rajlal discussed issues regarding Prop 63 funding and the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) visit with DMH.

The LAO is a non partisan analyst consultant group for the legislature that reports what the outcome would be for specific proposals. LAO met with DMH Chief Deputy Director staff and reported the following conclusions

- Prop 63 Los Angeles County did a very good job of starting up, the information was very impressive.
- Prop 50 – Service to homeless on Skid Row outcome, 80% decrease in homelessness.

Ms. Rajlal also discussed issues pertaining to Prop 63 funding where people do not understand what happens to money.

VII. Presentation – Downtown Mental Health Center

Larry Hurst, Acting District Chief

Welcomed the Mental Health Commission to the center. Mr. Hurst discussed the following achievements and changes:

- Center has experienced significant growth
- Senator Darryl Steinberg and Steve Mayberg officially presented the approval of Proposition 63 at the Downtown facility
- Oversee two major housing providers
- Housing for 3500 SRO residents
- Homeless capital is Skid Row
- Full Service Partnership (FSP) office provides intensive case management services to clients who have severe and persistent psychiatric concerns and are high utilizers of psychiatric services.

Lisa Wong, Program Manager, Outpatient Services

- Started out as an intern 20 years ago
- Provides traditional outpatient services, many are homeless.
- CalWORKs/Homeless Families Program collaborates with county agencies that impact families. The majority of the program clients are families.

Stacy Williams, Crisis Resolution Center

- Client based urgent care program funded through MHSA
- Since 2005 has helped over 300 families.
- Provides same day screening and meds to stabilize clients who come from all over the county to the center.
- 168 clients in FSP, 12 waiting
- Short-term intensive and case management services.

Recovery and Transformation Stories Shared by Consumer/Presenters from Downtown Mental Health

Cynthia Swyne – Outpatient Services

- 2003 – Separated from children
- Became homeless and unemployment
- Discussed experience in the shelters
- Persistent hopeful attitude and help from dedicated staff helped turn recovery into transformation.
- Currently married, employed and attending school

Stephen Rivera – Housing/Benefits Counselor

- Schizophrenic released from State hospital and could not go home
- Came to Skid Row to live in hotels
- Joined Project Return, recovered and re-established relationship with family
- Hired as Peer Advocate and assigned to urgent care in Granada Hills
- Returned to Downtown Mental Health hired as housing/benefits counselor with a case load of 15
- Got married two years ago.

Darryl Edwards – FSP Program

- Recovered from alcohol and drug abuse
- Former construction worker who lived in Atlanta and suffered a back and leg injury
- 15 years homeless and alcohol and drug abuse
- Clean for 7 years
- Stayed at Patton State Hospital
- Was currently accepted in music school to continue signing and song writing

VIII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports - None

IX. Public Comments -

- Nancy Carter, Stated support of State designation and MHSA Prop 63 immediate allocation of county funds.

- Commissioner Eduardo Vega (Commissioner of MHSA Oversight and Accountability Commission) discussed the following campaign strategy to keep Prop 63 funds in mental health:
 1. Be on vigilant mode to address every action on the senate regarding Prop 63
 2. Request that the system of care for mental health be preserved
 3. State that MHSA was intended to create new transformed services to improve values and ethics in the system; make it superior, happier, and healthy.

X. Meeting Adjourned

XI. Next Meeting Information

The next scheduled meeting will be:

**Thursday, January 22, 2009
12 – 2:30 pm
Room 739 Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Ch/ch